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About the monthly Water Level bulletin

July Precipitation Over the Great Lakes

As a percentage of the long-term July average:

Great Lakes Basin	111%
Lake Erie (including Lake St. Clair)	114%
Lake Superior	78%
Lakes Michigan-Huron	131%
Lake Ontario	108%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

July Outflows From the Great Lakes

As a percentage of

LEVEL news

Volume 8, Number 8 **August 9, 2000**

Most Lakes Reach Peak Summer Level

Levels of Lower Lakes Move Closer to Average

Water levels on Lakes Ontario, Erie and St. Clair all moved closer to their long-term averages during July, while the levels of Lakes Huron and Superior increased by less than their anticipated amounts and moved further below their average levels.

The levels of Lakes Superior and Huron fluctuated over a narrow range during the month, and both lakes were at the same level on August 1st as they had been on July 1st. Lakes Erie and Ontario were both at their peak levels early in July, and they gradually declined during the latter part of the month. On August 1st Lake Ontario's level was 17 centimetres lower than one month earlier.

At the beginning of August, Lake Superior was 24 centimetres below average, Lake Huron was 48 centimetres below average, Lake St. Clair was 10 centimetres below average, Lake Erie was 5 centimetres below average, and Lake Ontario was 19 centimetres above average. Lake Huron has not been lower at this time of year since the mid-1960s, although it is still well above its record low.

Rainfall over the Lakes Erie and Ontario basins during July was above average for the fourth consecutive month, although not as heavy as in the earlier months. Lakes Michigan and Huron also had above average rainfall, with about half the monthly total occurring in the last five days. Meanwhile, Lake Superior's basin received significantly less than average rainfall during July.

Depending on rainfall, the level of Lake Superior is expected to remain relatively constant over the next three months, while Lake Huron's level will decline slowly. The levels of Lakes St. Clair and Erie may decline a bit faster than usual, due to below average supplies of water from Lake Huron. Lake Ontario is expected to decline faster than usual, and be close to its average level by October.

During July, Montréal Harbour's water level was just three centimetres below average, and 100 cm above last July's level. This was the smallest amount below average for the harbour's level since August 1998. It is anticipated that the Harbour's level will decline over the next three months, but it should remain above chart datum.

the long-term July average:

Lake Superior	95%
Lake Erie	97%
Lake Huron	82%
Lake Ontario	111%

Note: These figures are preliminary.

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Summary information for "LEVEL*news*"

Haul-out date may need to be early

Recreational boaters and marinas are advised that the level of Lake Huron (including Georgian Bay) this fall will likely be the lowest fall level in 35 years. This will lead to less than usual water depth at docks and boat ramps that have not been dredged, which could cause some difficulty in removing boats from the water for winter storage. In some cases it may be necessary to remove boats earlier than usual, particularly if it was necessary to delay launching this spring due to insufficient depth. It is very difficult to accurately predict the rate of decline in the water level this fall, but the level could drop below chart datum as early as October. This spring, the level climbed to chart datum on May 13.

There is a possibility that similar conditions could occur on Lakes St. Clair and Erie. While it is very unlikely that the levels of these two lakes will drop below chart datum this fall, their levels this October could be similar to those of this past April.

On Lake Ontario, levels during the fall should be at or above last year's level for the corresponding period.

In the next edition of LEVELnews, the situation will be updated along with a discussion of anticipated conditions in the St. Lawrence River.

Open House

The International Niagara Board of Control will hold an Open House on Tuesday, September 12, 2000. This session will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Four Points/Sheraton Hotel, 114 Buffalo Avenue, Niagara Falls, New York. The International Niagara Board of Control is a bi-national organization reporting to and advising the International Joint Commission on matters regarding water levels, flows and similar subjects pertaining to the Niagara River. The purpose of this Open House is to inform the public of the Board's current activities and to hear public comments and suggestions regarding the Board's work. In addition, information will be presented on Great Lakes' water levels. If you require additional information, please contact Len Falkiner at: (905) 336-4947.

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